



United States Coast Guard

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Servicing Requirements for Semi-Portable/Portable Marine Fire Extinguishers

Ref: (a) National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 10, Standards for Portable Fire Extinguishers

During several recent COI and Annual inspections we have found serious deviations from the requirements for the annual testing of all hand held portable fire extinguishers and semi-portable fire extinguishers. Proven and tested firefighting systems are vital components for the safe operation of all inspected vessels; therefore, vessel owners and operators are reminded that they are ultimately responsible for ensuring their firefighting equipment is serviced and tested in accordance with Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

The applicable sections of Title 46 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 97.15-60, 132.350, and 176.810, require that the following items associated with all hand held portable fire extinguishers and semi-portable fire extinguishers must be tested annually, cylinders weighed or charge levels verified, recharged (if necessary), and all hoses/nozzles examined.

Liquid level gauging (ultrasonic) of cylinders is not approved as a substitute for weighing of cylinders.

Semi-Portable/Portable Fire Extinguishers:

Semi-portable and portable fire extinguishers shall be serviced and tested in accordance with reference (a) and the manufactures specifications as outlined below. The operation and servicing of the extinguishers do not need to be verified with a Coast Guard Marine Inspector present, but all items listed below must be completed by a thoroughly trained person and properly documented for review by a Coast Guard Marine Inspector.

The following is a list of all items required to be inspected, tested, serviced, and documented by thoroughly trained person annually:

1. Visual inspection of the material condition of each semi-portable/portable fire extinguisher including, but not limited to the cylinder, piping, hoses, discharge nozzles, wheels, and pressure gauges.
2. Cylinders shall be weighed annually using a certified scale to ensure no weight drop greater than 10 percent of the net content for the cylinder. If at any time a cylinder has a weight drop greater than 10 percent, the cylinder must be replaced or refilled.

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3. Inspect cylinders or previous documentation for the date of the last hydrostatic test. Hydrostatic test intervals for semi-portable/portable fire extinguishers differ depending on the type of agent; see reference (a) for requirements.

4. Inspect flexible hoses and/or previous documentation for the last hydrostatic test date. Every flexible hose shall be removed from semi-portable/portable fire extinguishers and hydrostatically tested in accordance with reference (a) at the same interval as the extinguisher.

5. Documentation completed by a fire servicing company or a thoroughly trained representative for the vessel must specify the number of extinguishers on board, their location, and all the information listed above. Additionally, hydrostatic testing of fire extinguishers shall be completed by a trained person holding a current requalification identification number (RIN) as per 49 CFR 180.209(g). A requalification identification number or RIN means a code assigned by U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to uniquely identify a cylinder requalification, repair, or rebuilding facility.

For additional information or clarification regarding this Marine Safety Information Bulletin, please send your questions or comments to: acteurinspections@uscg.mil or call +31 (0) 61-297-9335.



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